

**REMARKS**

***Status of the Claims***

In the present Reply, claim 11 has been amended. Claims 2, 3, 6, 10, 13, 14 and 17-21 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Thus, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 16 are pending in the present application.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendment to claim 11. The amendment to claim 11 was made to change the dependency thereof from canceled claim 10 to claim 1.

***Conclusion***

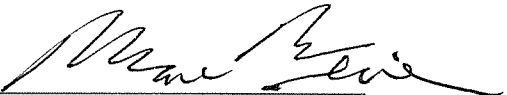
If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

RG

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